GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COAL
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4021
ANSWERED ON:17.05.2006
IMPACT OF OVERBURDEN ON ENVIRONMENT
Ahir Shri Hansraj Gangaram

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether any complaints have been lodged against the Western Coal Fields Ltd.. the ancillar) company of the Coal India Limited (CIl) regarding the adverse effect on environment on account of dumping of Overburden (OB) along the Bank of the river Irai in Chandrapur district of Maharashtra:

(b) if so. the reasons for dumping ofOB in the said area:

(c) whether any inwstigation has been made into the matter:

(d) if so. the outcome thereof: and

(e) the action taken against the erring officials in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO)

(a): No complaint has been lodged against Western Coalfields Limited (WCL) regarding the adverse effect on environment by dumping of overburden (OB) along the bank of river Irai in Chandrapur. However. Hon`ble Member of Parliament Shri Hansraj Ahir had written a letter to CMD. WCL in April. 2006 about irregular dumping of OB by Chandrapur Area of WCL and the financial loss thereof.

(b): WCl acquired land of an area of 122.03 Ha under Coal Bearing Act with the permission of State Govenunent on either side of the Irai River for the purpose of coal mining by opencast mine and dumping of OB at Hindustan lalpeth OC (HLOC) Mine. Accordingly. the acquired land is being used tor the said purposes. HLOC Mine Extn Phasel & Phase - Il are located on either side of Irai River and are seasonal mines which are operated during the dry period only. HLOC Extn. Phase-Il mine is exhausted and is being back tilled by overburden of phase-I mine.

In order to facilitate the crossing over the river for dumping OB material in de-coaled area of phase-Il mine. a temporary causeway was made as per yearly practice with three rows of Hume Pipes of 1200 mm diameter. The causeway has been removed after the completion of work. The flow of Irai River is never stopped with this arrangement. Re-handling of OB material was not done at this place.

(c): Departmental investigation was conducted based on News published in the Newspapers on the matter.

(d): The enquiry revealed that no OB dumping along the bank of the Irai river was done.

(e): Does not arise in view of reply at (d) above.